

REMARKS

The Office Action dated October 20, 2004, and the patents cited therein have been carefully reviewed, and in view of the above changes and following remarks reconsideration and allowance of all the claims pending in the application are respectfully requested.

The Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Over Behr

Claims 1, 2, 5, 14-17, 23, 24 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Behr, U.S. Patent No. 5,055,951.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 10, which has been indicated to contain allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claim 10 has been cancelled.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 1 is allowable. It follows that claims 2, 5, 14-17, 23, 24 and 26 which each incorporate the limitations of amended claim 1, are each allowable for at least the same reasons that amended claim 1 is considered allowable.

Consequently, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw this rejection and allow claims 1, 2, 5, 14-17, 23, 24 and 26.

The Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Over Behr In View of Rubin

Claims 3, 4 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Behr in view of Rubin et al. (Rubin), U.S. Patent No. 6,421,195.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3, 4 and 6, which each incorporate the limitations of amended claim 1, are allowable for at least the same reasons that amended claim 1 is considered allowable.

Consequently, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw this rejection and allow claims 3, 4 and 6.

The Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Over Behr In View Of Hamann

Claims 11-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Behr in view of Hamann et al. (Hamann), U.S. Patent No. 6,233,206.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 11-13, which each incorporate the limitations of amended claim 1, are allowable for at least the same reasons that amended claim 1 is considered allowable.

Consequently, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw this rejection and allow claims 11-13.

The Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Over Behr In View Of Mallory

Claims 8, 9, 19, 21, 22 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Behr in view of Mallory, U.S. Patent No. 6,430,123.

Regarding claims 8 and 9, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 8 and 9, which each incorporate the limitations of amended claim 1, are allowable for at least the same reasons that amended claim 1 is considered allowable.

Regarding claim 27, Applicants have amended claim 27 to include the limitations of claim 10, which has been indicated to contain allowable subject matter. Thus, Applicants respectfully submits that amended claim 1 is allowable. It follows that claims 19, 21 and 22, which each incorporate the limitations of amended claim 27, are each allowable for at least the same reasons that amended claim 27 is considered allowable.

Consequently, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw this rejection and allow claims 8, 9, 19, 21, 22 and 27.

Newly Added Claims

Applicants have added new claims 28 and 29. New claim 28 is based on previously presented claim 1 and claim 25, which has been indicated to contain allowable subject matter. Similarly, new claim 29 is based on previously presented claim 27 and claim 25.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that newly added claims 28 and 29 are allowable.

Consequently, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner to claims new claims 28 and 29.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above arguments, it is urged that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner find that a telephonic or personal interview would expedite passage to issue of the present application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

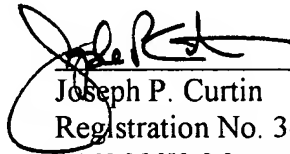
A petition for the necessary extension of time to file this response having an attached check in payment of the applicable extension fee has been submitted concurrently with this response.

A general authorization under 37 C.F.R. § 1.25(b), second sentence, is hereby given to credit or debit Deposit Account No. 09-0441 for the instant filing and for any other fees during the pendency of this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17 and 1.18.

It is requested that this application be passed to issue with claims 1-6, 8, 9, 11-17, 19, and 21-24, and 26-29.

Respectfully submitted,

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Joseph P. Curtin
Registration No. 34,571
1469 N.W. Morgan Lane
Portland, Oregon 97229-5291
(503) 296-8373
(503) 297-0452 (facsimile)